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# Christmas Tree Recycling Program [2017 Report and Results]





Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful, 2017

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Keep Golden Isles Beautiful, 2017



Keep McIntosh Beautiful, 2017

# Summary of Results



Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful, 2017

- **94,417** trees were collected in total. Of these, **82,941** were recycled into mulch for playgrounds, city and county landscaping projects, and individual home use.
- **2,709** trees were sunk into lakes across the state to provide fish habitats. **776** were used for fuel or other uses.
- **Over 6 million** Christmas trees have been recycled and diverted from landfills since the start of the program.
- **48** local governments and/or organizations participated in 2016.
- **151** collection sites were set up throughout the State.
- **673** volunteers donated **2,254** hours of time.
- Davey Tree Experts chipped **54,410** trees in Metro Atlanta

# Local Feedback

Bring One for the Chipper celebrated 26 years of treecycling in 2017. The official date, January 7, was cold, wet, icy and snowy in some parts of Metro Atlanta. The high temperature was 31 degrees, with a low temperature of 21 degrees. Due to wintery weather making travel challenging across large portions of Georgia, some Chipper events this year ended up being cancelled. All support materials were distributed online and our sponsors offered vegetable and flower seed packets, along with dogwood seedlings as participant giveaways. Each year, feedback is collected from communities across the state. Here is a sampling of what participants from 2017 had to say:

- This was a really fun event because it snowed the night before! Having lived in this area all my life and having participated in this event for the past 26 years, I knew I would have participation no matter what the weather. All of our "regulars" showed up in the two freezing hours we were on-site. Our Home Depot is incredibly supportive of the event and everyone was safe and happy. The snow on the ground made it a really exciting day. *-Keep Rome/Floyd Beautiful*
- It was very different this year, but the people still liked it! Typically, we partner with the City of Atlanta and the local Boy Scouts to collect trees and run them through the chipper in the Boulevard parking lot at Grant Park. This year, with the threat of Snowmageddon II, we decided to postpone the event until early the following week. This posed a dilemma for the Boy Scouts who use this event as a fundraiser. They will pick up your tree and deliver it to the chipper for a small fee. They were scheduled to pick up 220 trees this year and we didn't want them to lose out on that revenue. We quickly coordinated with the City to allow people to simply drop their tree in a designated area in the Boulevard parking lot over the course of the weekend and they would be chipped at a later date. This worked out well and the Boy Scouts were still able to make their pick-ups. People who might have missed out on Saturday were able to still drop off their tree on Sunday, with no time constraints. Everyone loves to be able to do something at their own pace, right? So, we think the program was as well received this year as it is every year. *-Grant Park Conservancy*
- Alpharetta and surrounding neighborhoods strongly support this collection site on Windward Pkwy. Our collection day was cancelled due to icy road conditions. The city asked people to stay off the roads that day unless travel was necessary. Our volunteers were disheartened that we were not able to have our staffed day. We still had 2,125 trees that were mulched. We received a generous donation of garden seed from Ferry Morse which will be distributed to schools, community gardens, workshop attendees and festival goers. We also received saplings which will be given to residents and planted in city park areas by volunteers. *-Alpharetta Natural Resources and City of Alpharetta*
- We had good interest from the community with multiple phone calls and emails prior to January 7 asking about details of the event. We also had good publicity prior to the event with newspaper and TV coverage. The day before and day of, we had phone calls asking if the event was taking place due to weather. The answer was yes which helped to bring people out despite the cold. We also had a reporter from the local newspaper brave the cold to get the story. Also, the event was held at the LaGrange city recycling center giving us an opportunity to let people know they can recycle any day of the week. Some had stopped by before January 7 to drop off electronics fearing the weather on the 7th. *-Keep Troup Beautiful*



## Chipper History 1991-2017

Date	# Communities	# Sites	# of Trees	# of Seedlings	# of Vols	Vol Hrs.	In-Kind Sponsorship Value (est.)	Private Sponsors
1/5/1991	39	130	275,000	Dogwoods/Red Maples			\$82,000	Georgia Power, WSB-TV
1/4/1992		150	300,000	Dogwoods/Red Maples			\$90,000	Georgia Power, WSB-TV
1/2/1993	87	280	300,000	200,000 seedlings				Georgia Power, WSB-TV
1/8/1994	82	306	300,000	80,000 Dogwoods/ Red Maples				
1/7/1995	85	280	330,000	100,000 seedlings			\$100,000	
1/6/1996	95	300	278,275	100,000 Dogwoods/ Red Maples				Georgia Power, Georgia Pacific, Home Depot, WXIA
1/4/1997	123	285	334,841	100,000 Dogwoods/ Red Maples	1,676	10,013	\$8,150	Georgia Power, Davey Tree, Georgia Pacific, WXIA, Forestry Commission (listed sponsorship)
1/3/1998	118	339	268,535	100,000 Dogwoods/ Red Maples	1,838	10,645		Georgia Power, Davey Tree, Georgia Pacific, Home Depot, WXIA, Forestry Commission
1/2/1999	126	390	327,578		1,713	7,832		
1/8/2000	135	353	271,640	100,000 Oak/Dogwoods	3,323	10,815		Georgia Power, Davey Tree, Georgia Pacific, Home Depot, WXIA, Forestry Commission
1/6/2001	131	411	280,260	88,000 Dogwoods/ Red Cedar	3,770	21,916.5	\$184, 204	Georgia Power, Davey Tree, Georgia Pacific, Home Depot, WXIA, Forestry Commission
1/5/2002	134	408	255,271	45,000 Dogwoods	3,576	13,348	\$168,404	Georgia Power, Davey Tree, Georgia Pacific, Home Depot, WXIA, Forestry Commission
1/4/2003	140	419	289,361	45,000 Dogwoods	4,027	32,000	\$115,204	Davey Tree, Home Depot, WXIA, Forestry Commission
1/3/2004	132	424	249,976	40,000 Dogwoods; 5,000 Mixed	3,997	14,181	\$115, 204	Davey Tree, Home Depot, WXIA, Forestry Commission
1/8/2005	119	388	200,315	40,000 Dogwoods; 5,000 Mixed	4,234	14,257	\$115,204	Davey Tree, Home Depot, WXIA, Forestry Commission

Date	# Communities	# Sites	# of Trees	# of Seedlings	# of Vols	Vol Hrs.	In-Kind Sponsorship Value (est.)	Private Sponsors
1/6/2006	121	363	226,000	40,000 Dogwoods; 5,000 Mixed			\$115,204	Davey Tree, Home Depot, WXIA, Forestry Commission
1/6/2007	127	378	241,589	40,000 Dogwoods; 2,000 Mixed			\$115,204	Davey Tree, Home Depot, WXIA, Forestry Commission
1/7/2008	128	363	173, 813	40,000 Dogwoods	5,268	22,860	\$115,204	Davey Tree, Home Depot, WXIA, Forestry Commission
1/2/2009	128	389	196, 349	35,000 Dogwoods, Swamp Chestnuts, Red Cedar, Catalpa	5,191	20,049	\$115,204	Davey Tree, Home Depot, WXIA, Forestry Commission
1/9/2010	98	255	184,719	45,900 packets Vegetable/Flower Seeds	5,315	22,630	\$76,501	Davey Tree, Home Depot, WXIA, Ferry Morse Seed Co.
1/8/2011	99	309	161,319	60,000 packets Vegetable/Flower Seeds	6,395	20,175	\$84,607	Davey Tree, Home Depot, WXIA, Ferry Morse Seed Co.
1/7/2012	85	298	164,806	60,000 packets Vegetable/Flower Seeds	7,840	24,483	\$84,607	Davey Tree, Home Depot, WXIA, Ferry Morse Seed Co.
1/5/2013	66	256	106,825	10,000 packets Vegetable/Flower Seeds	8,884	23,583	\$198,845	Davey Tree, Home Depot, WXIA, Ferry Morse Seed Co.
1/4/2014	81	273	117,696	10,000 packets Vegetable/Flower Seeds	1,944	7,319	\$198,845	Davey Tree, Home Depot, WXIA, Ferry Morse Seed Co.
1/3/2015	66	205	98,876	15,000 packets Vegetable/Flower 3,000 Dogwoods, 2,000 Northern Red Oak	1,171	4,983	\$210,550	Burpee, Davey Tree, Ferry Morse Seed Co., Georgia Forestry Commission, Home Depot, WXIA
1/2/2016	60	189	108,468	15,000 packets Vegetable/Flower 10,000 Dogwoods	1,199	4,925	\$214, 345	Burpee, Davey Tree, Ferry Morse Seed Co., Georgia Forestry Commission, Home Depot, WXIA
1/7/2017	48	151	94,417	15,000 packets Vegetable/Flower 10,000 Dogwood/Scarlet/ Swamp Chestnut/N. Red	673	2,254	\$214,345	Burpee, Davey Tree, Ferry Morse Seed Co., Georgia Forestry Commission, Home Depot, WXIA

# Results By County

**Including participating organizations**

<b>County</b>	<b>Coordinating Organization</b>	<b>Total # of Trees Collected</b>	<b># of Volunteers</b>	<b># of Hours</b>
Bibb	Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission	3,011	87	425
Bryan	City of Richmond Hill	527		
Bryan	Keep Pembroke Beautiful	1		
Bulloch	Town of Brooklet	4		
Chatham	City of Savannah	150		
Chatham	Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport	520		
Cherokee	City of Canton	82		
Cherokee	City of Holly Springs/Home Depot Locations	1,085		
Cherokee	City of Woodstock	405	1	8
Cherokee	Home Depot Locations	1,750		
Clarke	Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful	600		
Clayton	Home Depot Locations	1,595		
Cobb	Keep Cobb Beautiful	19,525	32	64
Cobb	Keep Smyrna Beautiful/Home Depot Locations	2,770		
Coweta	Keep Newnan Beautiful	81		
Crisp	Keep Crisp Beautiful	25	2	2
DeKalb	City of Avondale Estates	225	2	6
DeKalb	Clarkston Public Works	67		
DeKalb	Keep Chamblee Beautiful	553	2	4

<b>County</b>	<b>Coordinating Organization</b>	<b>Total # of Trees Collected</b>	<b># of Volunteers</b>	<b># of Hours</b>
DeKalb	Home Depot Locations	2,225		
Douglas	Douglas County Landfill	225		
Douglas	Keep Douglasville Beautiful/Home Depot Locations	895		
Fayette	Keep Peachtree City Beautiful	1,058	17	120
Fayette	Home Depot Locations	310		
Floyd	Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful	63	11	33
Forsyth	Keep Forsyth Beautiful	3,373		
Fulton	Alpharetta Natural Resources	2,125	1	5
Fulton	Live Thrive Atlanta CHaRM	600	4	10
Fulton	Grant Park Conservancy	325		
Fulton	Keep Atlanta Beautiful Commission	6,290	16	48
Fulton	Keep North Fulton Beautiful	6,515	20	
Fulton	Keep Roswell Beautiful	5,000		
Fulton	Home Depot Locations	3,960		
Glynn	Keep Golden Isles Beautiful	1,024	213	686.5
Gwinnett	City of Suwanee	1,110		
Gwinnett	Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful	8,000	123	369
Gwinnett	Home Depot Locations	9,075		
Habersham	Keep Habersham Beautiful	36		
Henry	Home Depot Locations	210		
Houston	Keep Warner Robins Beautiful	210	50	179.25



<b>County</b>	<b>Coordinating Organization</b>	<b>Total # of Trees Collected</b>	<b># of Volunteers</b>	<b># of Hours</b>
Jackson	Keep Jackson County Beautiful	300	5	5
Jackson	Jackson County	310	12	27
Laurens	Keep Dublin-Laurens Beautiful	250		
Liberty	Keep Fort Stewart/Hunter AFB Beautiful	538		
Liberty	Keep Liberty Beautiful	497	14	64
Lowndes	Keep Lowndes/Valdosta Beautiful	671	14	34
Madison	Keep Madison County Beautiful	95	12	45
McIntosh	Keep McIntosh Beautiful	20	3	16
Muscogee	Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission	1,500	5	4
Oconee	Keep Oconee County Beautiful	638	11	34.5
Paulding	Home Depot Locations	600		
Pickens	Keep Pickens Beautiful	116		
Rockdale	Home Depot Locations	35		
Spalding	Spalding County Recycling	257		
Tift	City of Tifton	41	7	28
Troup	Keep Troup Beautiful	10	5	21
Walton	Keep Walton Beautiful	103		
Walton	Home Depot Locations	400		
Whitfield	Keep Dalton-Whitfield Beautiful	256		
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>94,417</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>2,254.25</b>

# KGIB: Make Christmas tree recycling a holiday tradition

By **LARRY HOBBS**  
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If taking down that beautifully-decorated Fraser fir or Scotch pine gives you a case of the post-holiday blues, Lea King-Badyna has a suggestion that will liven up the process.

Give that tree a festive sendoff and a second life by taking it to one of several drop-off locations for the Bring One For The Chipper recycling effort sponsored by Keep Golden Isles Beautiful. The project begins today and runs through Jan. 8, with seven sites set up conveniently throughout the Golden Isles where folks can take their live Christmas trees for recycling.

And if a family wants to keep that tree standing through the New Year, the big event is Chipper Day on Jan. 7. On that day, people can drop off their Christmas trees for recycling and come home with seeds for the upcoming spring garden as well as a tree sapling, compliments of the Georgia Division of Forestry. Volunteers will be on hand to take the trees from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the following locations: Home Depot, 200 Altama Connector; Howard Coffin Park, 1430 Lanier Blvd.; 220 Retreat Village; the shopping plaza at 5420 New Jesup Highway; and the Tidelands Nature Center on at 100 S. Riverview Drive on Jekyll Island.

"They will be on hand to help unload your trees and put them in the chipper," said King-Badyna, executive Director of the non-profit Keep Golden Isles Beautiful. And we'll give you packets of garden vegetable seeds and sapling for the Forestry people. Last year it was a dogwood."

Throughout the two weeks of the event, all of



Provided photo

Christmas trees are piled up to be chipped after Christmas in 2015 during the Bring One for the Chipper campaign. The program begins today.

## DROP-OFF SITES

### Chipper Day

Jan. 7 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- The Home Depot - 200 Altama Connector, Brunswick
- Howard Coffin Park - 1430 Lanier Blvd., Brunswick
- Winn Dixie - 220 Retreat Village, St. Simons Island
- Winn Dixie - 5420 New Jesup Highway, Brunswick
- Tidelands Nature Center - 100 S. Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island

### Throughout the Holidays

Dec. 26 - Jan. 8

- Goodyear Park - 2209 Parkwood Drive, Brunswick
- Howard Coffin Park - 1430 Lanier Blvd., Brunswick
- Orange Park - 2216 Reynolds St., Brunswick
- Golden Isles Wood Products - 2950 Altama Ave., Brunswick
- Old Demere Road - 1913 Old Demere Road, St. Simons Island
- Winn Dixie - 5420 New Jesup Highway, Brunswick
- Fire Station Six - 3320 U.S. 17 South, Brunswick



the trees taken to the drop-off sites will end up in the chippers of Golden Isles Wood Products of Brunswick. The resulting product of 2016's Christmas tree, will end up as 2017's biofuel for local pulp mills and mulch for public landscaping throughout Glynn County.

King-Badyna hopes more people will make Bring One For The Chipper part of their yearly holiday plans.

"I think it would be good if people looked at this as part of their holiday tradition," she said. "Let's do something good with our Christmas trees and keep

them out of the landfill. Plus, that Christmas tree that brought us so much joy during the holidays goes on to serve another purpose."

Beginning today, folks can drop off their trees anytime at designated spots at any of the following locations: Goodyear Park, 2209 Parkwood Drive; Howard Coffin Park, 1430 Lanier Blvd.; Orange Park, 2216 Reynolds St.; Golden Isles Wood Products, 2950 Altama Ave.; the county lot at 1913 Old Demere Road on St. Simons Island; the shopping plaza at 5420 New Jesup Highway; Glynn County Fire Department Station at 3320 U.S. 17; and Tidelands Nature Center on Jekyll Island.

Keep Golden Isles Beautiful does the annual Christmas Tree recycling program in conjunction with Keep Georgia Beautiful's statewide program. The local effort has sent about 1,900 trees into the chipper for recycling in each of the last couple of years, King-Badyna said. She hopes to draw enough participation to top 2,000 recycled trees in the Golden Isles this year.

"We'd love to get over 2,000 trees this year," she said. "The more people we can get taking part in this in the Golden Isles, the better."

Christmas trees often end up getting dumped along roadsides and in empty lots, which typically encourages others to begin adding to the pile with non-recyclable trash, she said. At the very least, these trees end up being hauled away by sanitation crews to rot away without purpose in a landfill.

"Christmas trees are one of those things that people have a hard time figuring out what to do with," King-Badyna said. "This

way you can recycle them to keep them from ending up in places they do not belong, and to keep them out of the landfills. We're happy to collect them and recycle them for biofuel locally and for mulch to be used by the county."

For more information on Bring One For the Chipper, go to: [kgib.org](http://kgib.org).

# Tree chipping set for Saturday

By TYLER H. JONES  
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A local environmental group is hoping to bring a "chipper" end to the holiday season.

Keep Golden Isles Beautiful, a nonprofit aimed at preserving and enhancing the beauty of Glynn County, will host its annual "Bring One for the Chipper" Christmas tree recycling event at various locations from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

"The main part of this is to help prevent trees from being dumped on the sides of roads or in public areas," said Lea King-Badyna, executive director of Keep Golden Isles Beautiful. "It's an easy way to properly dispose of your tree."

Volunteers will staff five locations in Brunswick and St. Simons Island, and people who drop off trees will receive free vegetable seeds and tree saplings, courtesy of the Georgia Division of Forestry. Only live trees will be accepted.

Drop-off locations include:

- The Home Depot, 200 Altama Connector, Brunswick
- Howard Coffin Park, 1430 Lanier Blvd., Brunswick
- Winn Dixie, 200 Retreat Village, St. Simons Island
- Winn Dixie, 5420 New Jesup Hwy., Brunswick
- Tideland Nature Center, 100 S. Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island

Georgia Power on Saturday will provide wood chippers at Howard Coffin Park, the St. Simons Island Winn Dixie and The Home Depot. Trees may also be dropped off at those locations Sunday, but no staff will be on site.

Golden Isles residents may also drop off trees at the following additional locations through Sunday, but the drop-off points are not staffed:

- Goodyear Park, 2209 Parkwood Drive, Brunswick
- Orange Park, 2216 Reynolds St., Brunswick
- Golden Isles Wood Products, 2950 Altama Ave, Brunswick
- Fire Station No. 6, 3320 U.S. Hwy. 17, Brunswick
- 1913 Old Demere Road, St. Simons Island

Some of the trees will be turned into biofuel, while others will be chipped and used for landscaping material in public spaces across Glynn County, King-Badyna said.

Last year, Keep Golden Isles Beautiful recycled 1,851 trees, and King-Badyna is hoping to beat that number in 2017.

"We'd love to do over 2,000, because we know way more than that are sold in Glynn County," she said.

She's also hoping the event will get people talking about sustainability, recycling and other environmental issues.

"The 'chipper' effort is a great opportunity for families to talk about the importance of caring for the environment," she said. "We encourage Golden Isles residents



The News/File

Workers with the tree service Asplundh grind up Christmas trees in The Home Depot parking lot last January during the Bring One For The Chipper event, sponsored by Keep Golden Isles Beautiful.

## Tree

Continued from page 1C

to support it and become involved in not only this effort, but also Keep Golden Isles Beautiful's many local sustainability and beautification

projects throughout the year."

Keep Golden Isles Beautiful was established in 1979 and is one of 78 Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation affiliates. More information is available at [www.kgib.org](http://www.kgib.org) or by calling 279-1490.



# Rome OKs tiny homes in city limits

• Commissioners also adopted the 2017 budgets and proclaimed Jan. 7 as the Bring One For The Chipper recycling day for Christmas trees.

By Diane Wagner  
Staff Writer  
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The Rome City Commission approved a new development category Monday that clears the way for some tiny home communities in the city limits.

Previously, the Unified Land Development Code set a limit of one house per lot in the city. Under the change, residential

cluster communities are allowed on lots of one to two acres, with a density of up to 10 houses per acre.

The communities would be limited to areas zoned for multi-family development and would require a special use permit.

Planning Director Sue Hiller said developers have contacted her office about opportunities for the homes, which could be as large as 400 square feet.

Commissioner Bill Collins expressed some concern about opening the door for mobile home parks, which are not allowed in the city. However, Hiller noted that each tiny house would have to meet standards for site-built or modular homes.

"It could be nice, af-

## RN-T.com

Read this story online  
to see a Google map of  
The Home Depot.

fordable housing," Hiller said.

Commissioners unanimously approved the ULDC amendment.

The board also adopted standards for recreational vehicle parks that would cap occupancy at no more than 60 days a year. The Floyd County Commission is expected to take up both proposals at its Jan. 10 meeting.

Also on Monday, the City Commission:

• Adopted the 2017 budgets, which include funding for 1.5-percent employ-

ee merit raises. No property tax hike is planned.

• Met in closed session for the annual evaluation of City Manager Sammy Rich. Mayor Jamie Doss said all nine commissioners gave Rich very strong marks — for both daily activities and special projects such as the new Rome Tennis Center at Berry College.

"He's got our city moving in the right direction," Doss said.

• Proclaimed Jan. 7, as Bring One For The Chipper Day, an opportunity for Floyd County residents to recycle their Christmas trees. Trees may be brought to The Home Depot, 103 Hicks Drive, between 10 a.m. and noon and exchanged for a red oak seedling to plant.

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# Christmas trees find new purpose in the new year

## Bring One for the Chipper is Saturday

By Kristina Wilder  
Staff Writer  
KWilder@RN-T.com

**RN-T.com**

Read this story online  
to see a Google map of  
The Home Depot.

Old Christmas trees will find a new home this weekend as the 26th annual Bring One for the Chipper takes place at Home Depot Saturday.

Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful will be collecting live Christmas trees from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at Home Depot, 103 Hicks Drive, in the Garden Center parking lot.

The Georgia Forestry Commission has provided red oak seedlings to be given to participants and packets of seeds also will be available.

"This is a way to engage people," said Mary Hardin Thornton, director of KRFB. "It shows the impact that forestry can have. A real tree is a renewable resource."

The things that can be done with the trees cover a wide range, she said. Trees are dropped off and often picked up rather quickly.

"You drive by at the beginning and the lot will be packed with trees, but drive by two hours later and they are all gone," she said.

While the Chipper event did used to include an actual chipper, this ended several years ago.

However, there is no shortage to creative uses for the trees, Thornton added.

"Fishermen love them," she said. "They sink them in a lake in their favorite

fishing spot and come spring, there is a ton of activity around that tree."

Many others like to use the trees for firewood or mulch them, she said.

Another benefit of the Chipper event is the fact that it puts seedlings in the hands of those willing to plant and nurture a new tree.

"Especially after the drought we had recently, it will be nice to get new things growing," Thornton said. "The whole event is like a homecoming for me, too, because I get to see so many people that I only see during this time of year."

City arborist Terry Paige will be on site to talk to anyone who has questions about a tree and volunteers from the City of Rome Tree Board will be on hand to help load and unload the Christmas trees.

Those with live garland or wreaths may also drop them off during the event, Thornton added.

If anyone can't make it to the event Saturday, county residents can drop off their trees at any of the remote waste sites. Trees dropped off at the sites are also picked up by local fisherman. City of Rome residents can also drag their live trees to the curb as part of trash pickup.



Mary Hardin Thornton



Terry Paige



# Chippers brave the cold

• The 26th annual Bring One for the Chipper pulls in over 60 Christmas trees for recycling.

By Doug Walker  
Associate Editor  
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The warmest person at The Home Depot in Rome on Saturday was Eliza Asbury, who was buried inside a beaver costume at the 26th annual Bring One for the Chipper event.

Although Chipper, the mascot beaver, was warm, any of the actual mammals may have gone a bit hungry since most of the Christmas trees brought to the tree-recycling event are now sunk in area lakes as fish habitat, as opposed to being chipped up for mulch.

Rome arborist Terry Paige said a number of people actually brought trees by the collection spot Friday in advance of the snow and ice. Paige said activity really picked up around 10:45 Saturday morning.

"I was really pleased with the turnout, it was such a beautiful day," said Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful Director

Mary Hardin Thornton. "The snow actually added a lot of excitement to it. For most of the people who came by, this has become a tradition. Howie Lowden was the first one there waiting for us."

By the time the official collection period was over at noon Saturday, Paige said they had collected over 60 trees. People were still able to drop off trees outside Home Depot's Garden Center throughout the after-



Spencer Lake / Rome News-Tribune

Eliza Wisell (left) helps lift a tree out of the back of a pickup with Terry Paige, the city of Rome's arborist, assisting her Saturday in The Home Depot's parking lot.



Spencer Lake / Rome News-Tribune

Jack Druckenmiller unloads a tree from the back of a pickup for the 26th annual Bring One for the Chipper event.

## RN-T.com

Read this story online for a link to the Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful page on Rome-Floyd County website and for a link to the Urban Forestry website for Rome-Floyd County.

noon, as road conditions improved slightly.

Thornton said she rode back by the home-improvement store about an hour after the event con-

cluded and said it appeared another dozen or more trees had been dropped off.

Paige also said fishermen were there waiting to collect and haul off the trees to their ponds or lakes to serve as fish habitat.

"Peter Gilbert gets a few every year and comes back and forth in his pickup truck to haul them off," he said. "There was one fellow here in a big Ford F-250 with a trailer to collect trees."

Region 1 Department of

Natural Resources Director Chuck Waters explained that the trees create a hiding place for small fish to keep from getting eaten by larger fish.

"That makes them an attraction for the bigger fish," Waters said. "Subsequently it creates great habitat for anglers to catch the larger bass and crappie."

Anyone who wanted to pick up the trees was permitted to do so on a first-come, first-serve basis.

"It's basically the same group of guys that come each year," Paige said.

When Paige and the Keep Rome-Floyd Beautiful volunteers left, fewer than a dozen trees remained for pickup.

Those who were able to make it out to the recycling program received northern red oak seedlings to replant at their home.

"Just about everybody is taking one," Paige said. "The northern red oak produces nice shade, vivid fall colors and acorns that provide food for deer, turkey and squirrels."



Mary Hardin Thornton